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A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

Mickleham Rectory

May 2020

Mickleham Parish Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble published under the auspices of Mickleham PCC with an independent editorial panel. The magazine is published at the beginning of each month except January and August.

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send to:
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Contributions in any form are welcome as are good quality photographs. There is no charge for advertising local charity and community events. However the editors reserve the right to shorten omit or reformat articles submitted for publication depending on space.


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Dear friends
 How fast the world has moved on since writing for last month's magazine. By the time of its publication the Coronavirus and subsequent illness Covid-19 had swept across the planet leading to whole countries, including ours, going into 'lockdown' measures. Our society today, even here in our parish, is living through times of great uncertainty and anxiety. There a number of areas of concern for many of us, and we pray we may all seek a sense of perspective as we face the future.

Facing our fears about our Health. It is important for all of us to face our fears. Fears can be healthy or exaggerated, and sometimes paralysing. It takes wisdom to admit that there are dangers around us that need to be properly, and fearfully respected, and it takes wisdom to see through the exaggerations and 'fake news' that at times may seem so prevalent. This dreadful virus that plagues the world is very real and we need to follow the necessary health practices, including staying at home and self-isolating where appropriate, not only for ourselves but on behalf of others.

Facing Fears about our Finances. There is a legitimate financial concern that goes with this crisis. We have already seen evident signs of financial havoc across global markets, it helps if we remain alert and willing to share our resources, being willing individually and collectively to do all we can for the health and needs of others in our community. It is good that we continue to work hard to be good stewards of all that we have and use it wisely for our own good as well as that of our parish.

Facing Fears about our Safety. We have a moral and ethical duty to protect our loved ones, our families, friends and neighbours, whilst remaining alert to the safety needs of those around us. All of us in our community share together in caring for one another, seeking to bring peace and allay fears about safety as we put into practice the principles and safeguards of best practice.

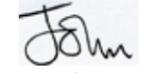
And here in our community we are so privileged! We see numerous individuals forming groups to address and alleviate some of the needs and fears of local people. There are WhatsApp groups, neighbourhood groups in roads and immediate proximities, family groups, church groups and no doubt many other groups, all pulling together, recognising what is needed both practically and emotionally and seeking to meet those needs.

We see people of hope in these days of fear and testing, not just passively accepting the circumstances we find ourselves in but serving and caring, and in the process new friendships are being formed and relationships strengthened.

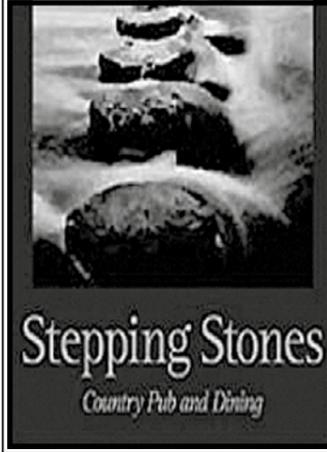
As Christians we believe that despite this world being flawed it is still God's world, broken at times, decimated as at present by a virus that brings sickness and death, but a world nevertheless that is God's good creation (Psalm 24). Our hope is that one day this broken world will be restored and become a place where there is no more death or mourning or crying or pain (Revelation 21:3,4).

Until that day may we all, irrespective of ideology, continue to work together for the good of our community, paying attention and listening to one another, checking in on the elderly or needy, and seeking to serve one another for the common good.

Thank you all, and may God continue to bless all the people of this parish.



The Reverend Canon John Harkin, Mickleham Parish Priest


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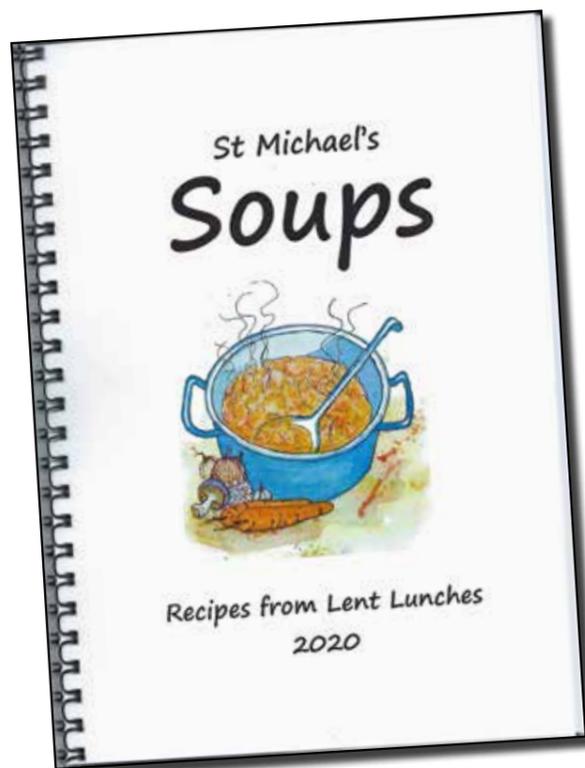
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Lent Lunches Soup Cookbook

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Over the past few years a wide variety of delicious home-made soups have been served at Lent Lunches organised and hosted by members of St Michael's Church. The lunches have been opportunities for people to get together and enjoy good food and company, and the soup-makers have often been asked for their recipes.

All of the 29 recipes in the book are tried and tested, and made regularly by the contributors. Some of the soups included here are definitely at the luxury end of the spectrum, others are for every day, and there are even a few recipes for 'emergency' soups from store cupboard ingredients, for those occasions when unexpected guests arrive or you just have not had time to go to the shops.

Mickleham Parish Magazine has sponsored this little book by so all proceeds will go to support the work of AllSaints Coffee Shop, a social enterprise initiative created by the Leatherhead Youth Project to provide a route to work for youngsters of Mole Valley and the surrounding area.

We hope that you will buy this book and feel inspired try out some (or all) of the recipes and share with us in the joy of soup!

Copies are £5, but if you would like to add a donation to this very worthwhile project, it would be most welcome.

Books can be ordered from: • Alison Wood 01372 376443 admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk

• Sue Tatham 01306 882547 sue@thetathams.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Both Alison and Sue are willing to make arrangements to get copies to people now and sort out what is owed for later settlement. Please contact them as above. Alison also has jam home-made by Sophie Adshead available for sale with the recipe book. Raspberry or gooseberry, it is £3 a jar or £5 for two. You could have a recipe book and 2 jars of jam for £10 excellent value! All proceeds to the AllSaints Coffee shop.



The Alpha Course

Although the course scheduled to start in April has had to be postponed, dates for the course will be available as soon as group meetings are permitted. Thank you to those who have already expressed an interest, there are still places available if anyone would like to join.

Alpha is a very social and engaging series of meetings that has been attended by literally millions of people across the planet, and the course content has been translated into 112 different languages. It explores the basics of the Christian faith and provides opportunity for anyone to ask questions and share their point of view, whatever their background or context.

Our evening sessions will follow a similar format starting with a meal at 7 pm, followed by a short DVD presentation exploring a different aspect people may have about the Christian faith and then a time for discussion, before finishing at 9 pm.

The series includes interviews with public figures such as world-renowned scientist Francis Collins of the Human Genome Project and adventurer and author Bear Grylls.

Thanks to the hospitality of Liz and John Absalom our meetings will be held in Chapel Farm in Westhumble - see below.

All are evening meetings from 7 pm to 9 pm, with the exception of the Saturday which will be from 10 am to 4 pm. If you would like to join this Alpha Course, please contact Canon John and Sue.

Email harkin12@btinternet.com or telephone 01372 378335.

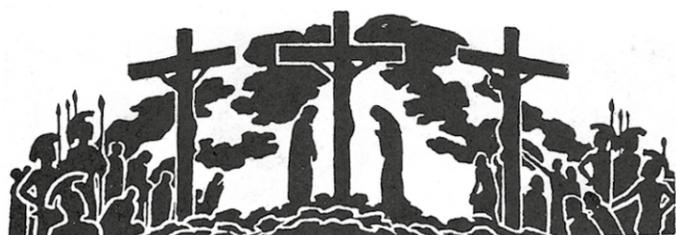
Session 1	Is there more to life than this?
Session 2	Who is Jesus?
Session 3	Why did Jesus have to die?
Session 4	How can I have faith?
Session 5	Why and how do I pray?
Session 6, 7 and 8	Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
Session 9	How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
Session 10	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Session 11	How does God guide us?
Session 12	Why and how should I tell others?

What are you doing in lockdown? Alison is addicted to Chain Piecing

Alison Wood has been making patchwork quilts for more than 25 years. She is still not bored with cutting up fabric and stitching it back together again: in fact, quite the opposite – the compulsion has become greater over time. As someone who cannot draw or paint (she says), Alison finds that patchwork is an opportunity to play with colour with the added attraction of symmetry and geometry in the more traditional design. Quilting adds another dimension with texture, and the end result is useable (and it does not have to fit!). Precision is required in the piecing and construction but there is also spontaneity and fun. The quilts shown are all quite modern and bright, but Alison also makes more traditional quilts: www.thechainpiecer.blogspot.com



You can see more of Alison's fabulous quilts scattered through the magazine.



Holy Week Reflections

Despite this year being so very different for all of us, John grasped technology by the horns and was able to deliver his Holy Week reflections each evening at 7 pm. Through the power of modern communication, we were able to meet virtually, which was much appreciated during this period of isolation for us all. It was a wonderful coming together; all of us who took part could see and speak to each other beforehand and participate in the evening. John took us through the final days of Jesus' life on Earth, relating it to the appropriate day of the week,

which made it a little more real, and pausing to pose some very searching questions. These put the spotlight on our own relationships with Jesus and the extent to which we are willing to let Him into our lives and put Him before all else. Searching questions which were not easy to answer truthfully and have given us a lot to think about. None of us is perfect, but we have to strive to improve.

Thank you, John and Sue for giving us this opportunity to prepare for Easter in a prayerful and intensely personal way.

Anne Weaver

Parish Prayer Meeting

Although we cannot meet in church at present, we shall be continuing to hold our **monthly Prayer Meetings** but online instead, so you will be very welcome to join our Zoom Prayer Meeting next month.

Following our usual pattern of praying together on the first Tuesday of the month we shall meet next on **Tuesday 5th May at 7.30 pm**. Please contact us in advance for the meeting ID and password numbers.

Should the restriction on meeting together still be in force in June, we shall once more use Zoom to meet on **Tuesday 2nd June at 7.30 pm**.

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Reflections on a Coronavirus Easter Week

Ten years ago, my wife Annie and I had the privilege of attending the Passion Play at Oberammergau in the German Alps. This play started as a means of giving thanks for the village having escaped the bubonic plague that devastated Europe in the 17th century. It has been put on most years ending with a zero since then, excluding 1920 (post war economic crash); 1940 (WWII); and now, 2020 (coronavirus).

Most of the audience were Christian groups; not us, but even a nonbeliever (aka typical occasional Church of England attendee), cannot help but be moved by the performance. The play traces Jesus's last days, opening on Palm Sunday. It is all in German, but even if you have none, you know the story, and you can sit back and soak up the atmosphere as the play unfolds, with asses, palm leaves, babies, temples, priests, Romans and of course three crucifixions. All the actors are locals (our B&B host sported a huge beard, as he was playing Caiaphas) and virtually none are professionals, but it does not show. I have not had a more moving evening in the theatre for a long time; matched only, perhaps, by the recent Tom Stoppard play about antisemitism, *Leopoldstadt*.

The following day I got into conversation with a local shopkeeper, who told me that for one year in ten the villagers of Oberammergau come together as a community to put on the play,

and incidentally make a lot of money. It was a rare example of community cooperation, because, he said, the other nine years they were all at each others' throats!

Against that background I am reflecting, this Palm Sunday, on the bizarre situation we now find ourselves in, at the time of writing locked down but still permitted to take daily exercise and to go shopping; the Queen addressing the nation; the prime minister taken to hospital; and the government floundering in an attempt to answer perfectly reasonable questions like, why are there not enough PPE for NHS staff, ventilators, tests and the like.

One positive is that many local volunteers have come out and helped. The WhatsApp group that Mickleham Parish Council and Westhumble Residents Association set up, and that others have followed, has produced a large number of tireless individuals who have been shopping, posting parcels, collecting prescriptions and generally assisting people staying at home. Other groups exist who are staying in contact with the vulnerable and disadvantaged and tending to their needs, which might be as simple as an occasional friendly phone call. Thanks to all. Oh, and we have all learned how to use Zoom!

Conversely, and unfortunately, we have also seen some examples of the less attractive side of human nature. Notices have gone up telling people to stay away from here. That is a shame. We are very lucky to be here in our little rural village and should not put up barriers to the less fortunate. Of course we are all very concerned by the virus, but we must not forget basic humane (dare I say Christian) practices and we should not bar people from our community, so long as they abide by the law and observe appropriate social distancing measures.

Let us all work together, and not in competition with each other, and we will get through this. And do use the helplines - if you have lost the leaflet, phone Will Dennis (07903 842674); David Allbeury (07860 227451) or David Ireland (07850 002185) or post on the Mickleham Emergency Group on What's App. If we can help - and we probably can - we will.

Happy Easter one and all. Keep smiling. I confess I slipped an Easter egg into my LIDL shop last week... do not tell the fuzz, or my daughter.

Will Dennis



Archivfoto: Passionsspiele Oberammergau



Memories of VE Day

From the May 1995 Mickleham Parish Magazine

During the celebration of the 50th anniversary of VE Day we asked local residents to recall their memories of that day.

VICTORY in EUROPE (VE) Day was the long awaited day that marked the end of six shattering years of World War II and the beginning of peace and a gradual return to normal living, with reunited families re-building their lives and getting back on their feet. There were great celebrations on 8th May 1945 in London where thousands of people thronged to rejoice in the hard-fought victory. The King and Queen acknowledged the cheering crowds from the balcony of Buckingham Palace and the two princesses were allowed to go down into the Mall and join in the festivities. Up and down the British Isles, in all cities, towns and villages people joined together to celebrate this momentous historical event - and Mickleham was no exception!

We have been asking people in Westhumble and Mickleham what they were doing on VE Day. Many were at school and can remember having an extra holiday and everyone recalled the 'street parties' that took place in the localities in which they were living at the time. Here is an account of what people had to say about this historic occasion:-

Ken Kilburn recounts that 'Chinese clocks were 7 hours ahead of Double British Summer Time, so in our little Himalayan village VE Day came early. We had followed the last days of the European war through BBC overseas transmissions, and were slightly bemused that something so dramatic and destructive was finally over. Our HQ in nearby Kunming arranged a party for the following Saturday. Americans, Chinese and other British came and there was dancing and drinking till the early hours. But the radio links had to be manned and teleprinters kept going. The Jap war had several months to run. Then we could celebrate properly.'

David Moffat heard the news via the radio in Secunderabad, Central Province, India, in a base hospital after serving in Burma at the time when Japan had begun to retreat towards Rangoon. (We hope publish his full story in August when we remember VJ Day.)

Brian Whinney was 'somewhere on the Rangoon River' on board *HMS Waveney* when they received a General Fleet Signal announcing the end of the War and issuing that most popular command: SPLICE THE MAINBRACE!

Peggy Lindsay was a WRAF Radar Operator stationed on the Norfolk coast and recalls a colleague coming into the Operations Room and saying 'it's all over'. Immediately she heard a *Shaky do* (wild mess party) being planned. However, her thoughts were more on getting to Birmingham as soon as possible to be de-mobbed and re-join her husband, Alan, who by that time had returned from naval service in India and was stationed on Hayling Island.

Edward Thomas remembers VE Day not so much for any external happening but for two acutely felt inner reactions. 'I was on board the Home Fleet flagship, the battleship *H.M.S. Duke of York* in Scapa Flow, that splendid inland sea surrounded by the Orkney Islands which is one of the finest sights in the United Kingdom. The Flow was filled with northern sunlight in which the great ships of the Home Fleet, resting after operations in the Arctic, shone with an even greater beauty than they did ordinarily. This was the scene when signals arrived from the Admiralty announcing the end of the war with Germany.

For two years, as the Home Fleet's intelligence officer, my life had been bound up, to the exclusion of all else, with the Fleet's operations in northern waters, off the Norwegian coast, and on the Arctic convoy route to North Russia. I had been intensely proud at having been in the thick of many of these operations, at my close association with the ships of the Home Fleet and its officers and men. I loved the ships for their beauty and their embodiment of Britain's genius for engineering and the seamanship which had shaped Britain's history. But they were essentially things for war: and with Admiralty's sudden announcement the feeling equally suddenly came over me that all this glorious assemblage was now futile and without point. It was a very long

time before I could comfort myself with the reflection that there was a place for it in peacetime. But that reflection was poor recompense for the sudden evaporation of that spiritual *élan* which had kept us all going through almost six years of war.

My second reaction was of panic. The war had filled my life and not for a moment had I thought of what might follow it. I had joined the Navy scarcely out of college and my lack of other than general qualifications for peacetime had not mattered during the war when insecurity and competition were in abeyance. But I was now suddenly confronted with the collapse of this artificial stability. Ian Fleming at the Admiralty had promised to put my name forward for a job in Whitehall intelligence. But I hardly thought I had an earthly when pitted against the big, self-confident personalities I had met in wartime intelligence. Nor was I sure that that is what I wanted to do in life. A glory had gone out of things.'

Ruth Dyson Thomas: On the morning of the 8th May 1945 I was rehearsing in London with my colleagues of the New English Trio and at noon we dived underground into the *Mainly Musicians Club* for a hasty lunch. The M.M.C. was a cosy little refuge adjoining the Oxford Street tube station. Run by the 'cellist May Mukle it was always full of familiar faces and on that occasion Vaughan Williams was there.

In the middle of lunch the receptionist, a modest lady whom most of us had only ever seen behind her desk, walked into the restaurant and made a brief and unemotional announcement, 'Ladies and Gentlemen, the War is over ...'

The place exploded. Vaughan Williams began it by embracing every woman in sight - including me and my companion, the violinist Gwyneth Trotter. A few minutes later he murmured to me: 'Who was that nice lady I've just kissed?'

Later we all emerged up the dark little staircase into Argyll Street where it appeared to be snowing. Miles of ticker tape were showering down

from office windows, whistles blew, sirens wailed the ALL CLEAR, people danced ... Indeed, the war was over.

Pat Wade recalls 'one of my few claims to fame happened to me whilst celebrating VE Day. Due to my mother's artistic ideas and skill with her sewing machine I was the little blond-haired girl who won first prize at the fancy dress party held in the street, dressed in my realistic gollywog costume. I could hardly breathe under a complete golly head mask topped by a piece of curly rag rug Mother had dyed black in a bucket on the coke boiler. Of course, this costume would be considered somewhat racist nowadays, but I remember feeling very proud in my colourful waistcoat, spotted bow tie and smart trousers, all made from bits and pieces from the sewing box. My younger sister was equally eye-catching in her jockey outfit also made by Mother, complete with racing colours of pink, gold and brown and she won 3rd prize. I bet the rest of the kids in the street hated us - at least for the rest of the day!'

Peter Curran was one of the thousands cheering outside Buckingham Palace. As a Boy Scout of 14, he recalls having manned a stirrup pump and helped in the installation of air-raid shelters at people's homes during the war.

Janet Curran has vivid memories of her father uncharacteristically dancing to *Knees up Mother Brown* at their street party in Banstead.

Doug Wade claims 'my memories about VE Day are a little hazy being but a babe in arms at the time (well O.K. a bit older than that) but I can recollect the impending sense of euphoria climaxing with a huge street party, with the children in fancy dress and home-made bunting stretched across the road. The evening was enlivened by dancing in the street and a huge bonfire. All the children were allowed to stay up and much drink was consumed by the adults and by about 10 pm when the bonfire was dying down, my mother, in a fit of patriotism, decided to donate our huge settee to the flames. This settee was something of a family relic, being stuffed with horsehair and weighing a ton. My mother always hated it and was only looking for such an excuse to get rid of it and so she inveigled



The fancy dress wedding at the King Willy. See also page 9

four strong and somewhat inebriated men to consign it to the flames. Upon being turned upside down the settee produced a cornucopia of coins and other long-forsaken treasures which I, with much competition from my brother, gathered up. Such was the heat from the bonfire it melted the road and a fairly substantial crater was in evidence the next morning and many of the adjacent houses had sustained cracked windows. In celebration, we had caused rather more damage than Hitler had inflicted upon us the whole of the war!'

Ian Fraser lived in Cheam in May 1945 and says that 'VE Day was expected any day. Much to my delight, the boarding school holidays were extended to enable me to join in the celebrations with my parents. We were invited to an impromptu street party where the guest of honour was the late Sir Sydney Marshall, the prospective Conservative MP for Sutton and Cheam and also head of Marshall Foods who 'catered for those with a less discerning palate'. The party must have gone with a swing and perhaps I had a drink or two because Mr Marshall referred to me throughout the evening as 'that Frightful Fellow Fraser!'

Joyce Cross was in her thirties when peace was proclaimed, living at *The King William IV* public house in Byttom Hill where her father was publican. She has fond memories of the party which was held shortly after VE Day at the pub. Many of the villagers went in fancy dress - her father was dressed as a lady and her brother as a nurse holding a baby, whilst she dressed up as a little old lady. Harold and Stan

Miles went as a bride and groom with the 'bride' carrying a bouquet of cow parsley and buttercups (and causing a bit of a stir when 'she' went to the Ladies!). Joyce remembers that the evening was full of fun and laughter and they all dressed up again a few days afterwards to have a formal photograph taken (this time with 'proper' flowers for the bride!). This photograph still hangs in *The William IV* in memory of how Mickleham marked the end of World War II.

Noeline Aarvold tells us 'I fear my recollections will disappoint all who read them, for readers will surely expect to learn of celebrations and festivities. I saw none that day as my commitments kept me in Dorking with Civil Defence colleagues at Pippbrook and at home with the evacuees.

The day for me was one joyous RUSH, and there was untold rejoicing at *Foxbury*. With my help five jubilant children removed the black-out, they sang, danced about and made a tremendous noise. Parents 'phoned to say they were on their way to take them home and somehow their possessions were collected and packed. What a party! Something to eat (Woolton pie, I fear), hugs and kisses all round, and then they all went home. There were five small cardboard boxes left behind which I put in the dustbin now and I regret it. They held their gas masks. I would have liked to have kept them.

'That night was clear and still. No droning of enemy 'planes - I could hardly believe it. I stood outside for a while and I remember saying - Thank You, God.' See also the recollection of WI meetings in 1945 on page 9.



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From the May 1995 Mickleham Parish Magazine The W.I. - in wartime crisis!

It is an amazing fact that anyone arriving from another planet, or not being otherwise in the know, would be unable to tell from reading the minutes of the monthly meetings of Mickleham and Westhumble Women's Institute - which continued throughout World War II - that a war of world scale proportions was in progress! There is not a mention, hint or even the slightest reference to the tremendous influence and disruption the war was having on local life - events, food rationing, accommodation of evacuees, etc. It seems that even bombs landing did not interfere with the noble institution of the W.I.! However, it must in fairness be added that W.I. members did contribute a great deal to ease difficulties in many practical ways ... it's just that they never thought it was worth recording!

Bearing in mind all that was going on at the time, you might, therefore, be interested to read the minutes of the W.I. meetings, both at the beginning and at the end of the War:-

19th October 1939

[This first wartime monthly meeting was held at *The Running Horses* as the village hall had been taken over by the Education Authorities as a school for evacuated children.]

Mrs Ward resigned.

A serious accident has befallen Miss Batchelor.

A suggestion was made that tea hostesses should contribute 1/- [one shilling] each towards the cost of the tea.

Miss Warner's talk on her trip to East Africa was both entertaining and interesting. Miss Pemberton expressed her thanks to everyone and the meeting closed with tea.

10th May 1945

The meeting opened with the National Anthem.

A suggestion has been made regarding the condition of lamp posts, etc. - a letter to be sent to Mr Gordon-Clark as Council representative. Regarding a letter from the Secretary of the

Welcome Home Fund, it was agreed to hold a Whist Drive to raise money for this fund.

Report of the Sub-Committee for the Produce Show. The schedule was presented to members and was well discussed, various items being added.

A party from the Dorking Townswomen's Guild entertained members with recitations and songs. It was much appreciated.

A Spelling Bee was also arranged by them and 7 members competed against 7 visitors. The visitors proved the winners.

Tea was served by Mrs Fairs and her helpers and the competition for a book on wild flowers brought several entrants, the winner being Mrs Knight. See what I mean!

Mo Chisman

Many will of course remember that Mo lived in Mickleham until a few years ago when she moved to Leatherhead. She was a regular contributor to the magazine.

Letter to the Editor

What a surprise! On Monday 30th March just as we were finishing our supper, the Parish Magazine was pushed through our letter box by our lovely neighbour Jilly.

Well, I was delighted; I'd assumed there would not be one printed, let alone delivered. After a week of lock down, what a joy to read so many interesting articles and see future events, some sadly cancelled already.

I suddenly realised T@3 is here at Mickleham Lodge at the end of April, so I had better check for cakes in the freezer and ingredients in the store cupboard!

I also loved David Fishwick's account of finding the lost chord or boot or whatever it was. I worked with David for years in the Science Faculty at Nescot in the 80s and 90s, and I can

tell you now, he did not eat many salads even then!

The bit about his pullover reminded me of sliding across our bathroom lined floor in Hampstead in the 1940s. The hand knitted socks our London grandmother made would get snagged on the tacks and pulled out yards of wriggly wool. Our lovely mother threatened us with a bamboo stick if we tried to cut any off!

Thank all of you who work so hard to bring us the village news every month, we certainly feel we are in whatever together. Yours, Jo Brown

Thanks, Jo, and to all those who expressed their pleasure at seeing the magazine. Special thanks to everyone who continued to make their usual contributions and deliveries and are doing so this time too. Hope you enjoy this one too.



Another photo of the fancy dress celebrations in Mickleham on VE Day (see pages 6/7)

Dorking Museum In May

May is a month for celebrating the coming of summer, warmer weather, blossoming flowers and trees. At the time of writing, it looks as if it will still be a time of uncertainty when traditional celebrations may be rather more muted. But stay safe and take encouragement from the fact that May 18th sees the beginning of National Smile Month.

May Day, of course, is a tradition with origins deep in history and the maypole celebrations date back to at least the 14th century. In his 'Recollections' (1866-67), Dorking linen-draper Charles Rose told of the early 19th century when May Day was observed 'merrily'. To the little boys who climbed the chimneys, 'May Day was a day of real delight, and this they demonstrated by their laughing eyes, and by the gleeful gambols they indulged in'. As well as the maypole and the garlands, 'there was 'Jack in the green', surrounded by washed-faced and gaily-decorated sweeps, who, to the sound of hoe and shovel, danced around the whirling 'Jack' in their merriest mood'.

Perhaps less widely remembered now is 'the custom on 29th May, or 'Oak Apple Day', to place a bough of oak in the roof of the old church tower' and when 'sprigs of oak, with the apple on them, were worn in the hats and caps of boys'. (This dates from the 1660 restoration of the monarchy – Charles II hid in an oak tree following the Battle of Worcester.)

At the time of writing, the Museum is sadly closed, the new season's re-opening of South Street Caves tours has been deferred and the programme of guided walks in and around Dorking has been suspended. These activities will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, so please check the Museum's website for updates. Additional guided walks have been provisionally scheduled from July onwards.

Even though the doors are closed, activity is still going on within the limitations imposed by the coronavirus lockdown. Research has continued for the summer exhibition, 'Forster at 50', due to open during May, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the death of novelist E M Forster. The

timing of the exhibition will be kept under review and, if necessary, it may be held over until 2021.

More creative work is going on in various households around the area in preparation for the autumn exhibition, 'Mayflower 400', commemorating the 400th anniversary of the sailing of The Mayflower with West Street shoemaker William Mullins and his family on board. A special feature will be displays of locally found 17th century shoes and replicas made by a local saddler, the kinds of tools that Mullins would have used in his trade and male and female costumes of the period.

Jackie Rance reveals that 'Some Museum volunteers are in the process of creating some 17th century costumes. There will be dressing up clothes for children and adult garments which will be displayed on mannequins as part of the exhibition.

'Our research shows that the Pilgrims did not wear black clothes all the time. It seems that the black dye was extremely expensive and thus only kept for 'best'. Most of the time the people wore everyday clothes made from natural fabrics like linen and wool and used easily available, often vegetable dyes. We have managed to source some modern fabrics that closely resemble fabric of the period and are trying to emulate sewing methods of the time, too.'

The great team from the Dorking Men's Shed are also working with the exhibition team to make a cross section model of the Mayflower and its contents. They have already done a huge amount of research into the speculative dimensions of the ship and mocked up a model. Now they are all trying to work from home as the Shed is also closed. It is going to be fantastic working with them!

The Museum will re-open as soon as circumstances allow. Visit www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk for updates. Enquiries to admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk

David Burton



Above: Maypole dancing in 1914, before the war broke out; Below: a cross section of the Mayflower under construction; bottom: 17th C garments being created.



Summer Sweeteners Grow Your Own Sweet Peas

There are some definite advantages to growing your own sweet peas as opposed to buying them from a garden centre.' This is how I was going to start my article this month but as I write it looks unlikely that garden centres or nurseries will be open at all this summer. They will be in a dire situation, their shelves absolutely bursting with plants all ready for spring and early summer planting out – their busiest time of their year. It will be disastrous too for the growers who have nurtured their plants into peak condition for the coming season.

But back to sweet peas. There are dozens of seed companies online and you can browse their selections. Alternatively, you can send for a paper catalogue which will include the whole range of seeds available. Sweet peas come in every colour you can think of, plus bicolour, fringed and striped – the

choice is endless. You can buy them in separate colours or collections (such as highly scented) or chosen mixtures (such a blend of deep blue, maroon and purple). Some smell sweeter than others, some reach the traditional circa 2 metre height, while others reach only 12 inches and are suitable for planting in tubs or hanging baskets.

Your seeds chosen and received, the next stage is obviously sowing. Sweet peas like a long root run so if you are starting them off first in pots before planting out it is better to plant them in deep pots, preferably with more depth than average (loo rolls would fill the bill or you can buy special root-trainers). The advantage of the last two methods is a lack of root disturbance when you plant out into the ground, whereas a shallow tray will mean that the roots of your young plants have wandered all over the place and are difficult to separate without damage. So, good compost (peat free is fine) and one seed to a container, just push in and cover it lightly. You can encourage speedier germination by soaking the hard seeds for 12 hours or so in water before sowing.

Once sown you wait of course, but meanwhile you can decide where you are going to plant and whether you need to prepare a structure for plants to climb up, such as a wigwam or a row of bamboos or poles as you might for runner beans. A sunny spot is ideal and one where you sit or pass by often will reward you with its fragrance.



Once the plants in their pots are 10cms high it is a good idea to pinch out the tops with thumb and forefinger in order to create bushier plants, and then you need to harden them off by putting them outside during the day and eventually leaving them out at night. Sweet peas are actually frost hardy, I often get plants that appear in spring which have survived the winter in the ground. You can plant out as soon as they have been acclimatised to outside temperatures and should be positioned about 20cms apart, whether up a trellis, a wigwam of poles or even a tub if you have chosen a dwarf variety. You can tie in if necessary but they have tendrils which twine.

Once they begin flowering the most important thing to do is to pick, pick and pick. Nothing will be a more welcome gift than a posy of sweet peas. When the flowers fade or start to make pods, remove them until the end of the season when you can pick and store some mature seeds to start all over again next year!

Judy Kinloch

BRAIN TEASERS

Can you translate these diagrams into words?
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1
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3
_ E R _ T _ O _

Answers on page 26



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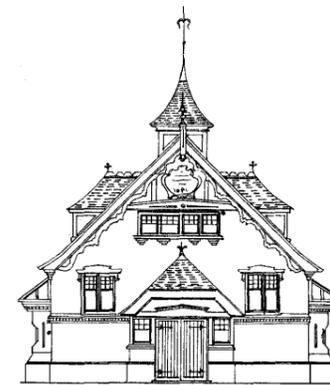


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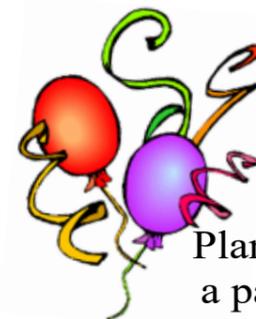


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Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'*



Everyone will want to join in a heartfelt 'thank you' to all of those who have carried on working to provide essential services for the whole community.

Of course NHS staff come top of the list, but there are many other people whose work we may not have recognised until we find ourselves in these circumstances. Best not to try to list them as we might miss out some important people.

Also many thanks to all those kind hearted neighbours who are helping those who are housebound and keeping them supplied with essentials.
What wonderful people.



Jason Wilson and daughter Katie made this lovely Easter garden and placed it outside the church door - sadly locked. Gill sent this picture saying 'Life goes on'. A very touching gesture.

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Continued from page 13

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View from the Royal Box Three years with the President of the Lawn Tennis Association

In short, they were fantastic - the best view on Centre Court, looking straight down the court with no head or hat in front to obscure any view. The question is, who gets an invitation and how come I was there?

I was lucky enough to be married to the then President of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and he was automatically a member of the Committee of Management which is with whom the 'buck stops'. There is always a sprinkling of royals, all the Grand Slam Presidents, and then the great and good. As a member, or wife, of that committee we are all expected to act as hosts at tea time or when it rains, but it is then you meet the most interesting people.

I remember seeing that Mo Mowlem and her partner were sitting having tea on the terrace which overlooked the courts, and I asked if I could sit with her. Once the pleasantries were over and she realised that I knew something about the Championships, she pounced. 'From which government 'pot' was the money taken to pay all the servicemen on duty?'. After I had picked my jaw up from the floor, I told her they all did it for free and indeed, many for years had even taken their annual leave to come to Wimbledon. She looked at me in total disbelief, but luckily just at that moment Ron walked by and I asked him to explain the situation.

Another time we sat down with a visitor whose husband had not come out of the Club house - when he did and made to sit down Ron just looked at him and said 'You're Thomas Allen' - his most favourite baritone ever. He and his wife were charming and he was happy to talk 'Opera'! Another time we saw Lesley Garret and her mother were sitting alone. We had such an interesting time with them, and it was patently obvious that Lesley's down to earth manner came from her thoroughly Yorkshire mother who would not let her daughter get away with anything.

One afternoon he remembered sitting

across from Mrs Thatcher who had slipped off her shoes. She was wearing very dark glasses and was sound asleep. The other person who used to sleep through the afternoon was Ted Heath, who was clearly bored, and I fell foul of him at teatime - but that is another story. The first time we went to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party Ron offered to go and stand in the very long queue for our tea - Joe Lyons in those days. As he went into the marquee he heard a loud voice call him over, it was the lady who served the teas in the Royal Box at Wimbledon, who Ron knew well. She filled two plates and told him to come straight back to her if we wanted more - you can imagine the looks he was given as he left the tent. Sometimes it is not what you know but who you know!

As many are aware, the Queen does not go to the Championships very often, but she certainly does her homework, as her very pertinent questions showed and her sense of humour is very sharp. During centenary year, and as Patron, she came to many events. The first was to open the Centenary Exhibition, and as she and Ron passed the Puma section he asked if she would like to see the shoes that Becker wore in his first final - he should not have parted from the itinerary! When she said she would, it was taken off the wall together with the 10 inch long nail which had attached it there. Her Majesty looked at Ron and with a completely serious face asked if Becker wore the nail as well? Another time she came to the ladies tennis in the Albert Hall and we were sitting exactly in line with the side line. The ball was called in and she looked at Ron and said 'Mr Presley, I think that ball was out!'

Someone asked me, at the end of our three years, if I had enjoyed myself. I just looked at him and said that I would be a fool if I had not. I do not know how many tennis matches we watched during that time, but I have hundreds of photos, made many lifelong friends, but best of all, I have a wealth of memories.

Frances Presley



HM the Queen at Wimbledon. Ron Presley is on the right; a packed Roal Box.

Community News

- Welcome to:
- Vivien Ellins who has moved to Pilgrims Way from Crathes, Deeside;
 - Ant and Mandy Dawson have recently moved to Fredley.



May Hardwicke

We were sad to learn that May Hardwicke, of Chapel Lane, died on 28th March. She would have been 100 on 5th May, possibly Westhumble's oldest resident. We hope to have an obituary next month.

We send our warmest condolences to her daughter Barbara and family.

Daily exercise

Here are some photographs taken during daily exercise excursions around Westhumble. We are so blessed to be able to walk from the house into such beautiful surroundings. One of the compensations for the limits of the lock-in is that we can all look closely at nature and listen to the bird song, which is at its peak in April and May. Spring migrants are arriving and quiet gardens seem to be attracting more birds than usual.

Ben Tatham took a walk round the Chapel Farm fields and recorded the new hedges planted to break up the larger fields (see the December 2019 MPM - *The Changing Nature of Chapel Farm*).

Ben also recorded the amazing slug trail on page 19. Whatever you think of slugs you cannot deny that it is quite something. How about a competition for a caption? Send your suggestions, please,

to the editor@micklehammag.co.uk

Other photos were taken on exercise excursions on the North Downs Way and in Denbies Vineyard. Sadly the vineyard is not a very good place for wild flowers, but if you look at the base of the boundary hedges they survive the mowing regime and light up any walk. Ravens are seen over the vineyard and over Westhumble occasionally. This is amazing - a few years ago they were seldom seen in the south east. A trip to the north and west of our islands was necessary to see them. But now they are much more widespread across the south and east. They are much bigger than crows, have a very distinctive cronking call, a bit like a flying pig, and they are quite vocal at this time of year.

Web reports of nightingales arriving

in Sussex and Hampshire appeared on April 6th. The Sussex report noted that this was one week earlier than last year, and even more than the preceding years. Sadly, we are very unlikely to hear them round here. Until very recently nightingales used to frequent Bookham Common, but there have been no reports of any for a few years. The best spot may be the Knepp Estate in Sussex, famous for its rewilding project. The impact on the bird population has been amazing, and it is sad not to be able to visit at this time of year to hear their song.

Charlotte Daruwalla



Clockwise from top right: An almost empty car park at Denbies; the new hedges in the Chapel Farm fields; horse chestnut buds bursting into leaf; wood anemones.



Grumpy Old Mickleman Hotel Showers



One of the effects of globalisation and instantaneous worldwide communication is the ultimate eradication of variety and eccentricity, and of regional/national language, accents, food and rituals; and a consequential increase in the blandness of life. Unfortunately, one area seems to have escaped the trend towards international homogeneity. The standardisation of hotel shower controls would seem to me to be of greater urgency than the need for international agreement on the cocoa content of chocolate. Given that there is a European standard requiring at least 50% of round topped bristles are needed to constitute a round headed bristle toothbrush, I am confounded by the continuing variability of shower controls. Showering must be a far more dangerous occupation than tooth brushing or eating chocolate: after all, you are naked, no spectacles, on a slippery surface and about to pour potentially boiling liquids onto your head.

All I want from in a hotel shower are two taps: one to make the water come on, and one to turn the water temperature up or down. It would help me too if there were a default position for temperature which would avoid scalding yourself

or freezing your extremities while you stand under the water frantically trying to find the right buttons. Every time I get in to a hotel shower it is set to whatever the last person had, which seems always to have been someone from a much warmer planet.

Two controls, that's all I need. In a posh hotel in Brighton last year, there were seven controls. Apollo 13 only had 5, and look what happened there. Two, the hot and cold supply were subtly ridged controls, so subtle that they were impossible to move with soapy hands. They each moved clockwise and anticlockwise, altering their relative forces. There was a further button labeled 'intimacy', which I had never seen before, and was a bit of a shock when a strong jet of stone cold water scored a direct hit, while I was looking up at the shower head wondering why nothing was happening. Another joystick-type knob adjusted the shower head directionally and a further button moved it up and down. I did not know about these until I had finished my shower, crouched under a very low shower head in the corner of the cubicle, with my backside against the cold glass. And whenever I stretched, blindly, for the shampoo, I triggered the intimacy button.

I did not try the 'massage' function in case robotic arms appeared from an unanticipated direction or height.

Being visually challenged does add to the complications. I have walked into several glass shower doors on the way in and out, and dried myself on numerous hotel dressing gowns. And there is no standard height for the shower lip. Stubbing your toe while trying to escape the intimacy jet and reaching through the steam for the dressing gown to get the soap out of your eyes in order to locate your glasses, is a combination of factors clearly not considered by shower designers.

But, far be it from me not to have something constructive to suggest. Why not have the shower controls dualled outside the shower? I have always considered the need to be naked and wet in order to get to the control panel was illogical. Then, with my glasses on, I can preadjust things to avoid scalding or the jet-powered removal of skin. So, hotel people, as one-night stayers cannot be expected to crack the enigma code just to smell nice: two controls!

Mark Day

Hear, hear! The best shower I came across was at a Travel Lodge 15 years ago. I still wish I had found out what make it was. Ed



Can you suggest a caption for Ben Tatham's photo of a slug trail? Send your caption, please, to the editor@micklehammag.co.uk





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KING WILLIAM IV

Dear friends and neighbours

It is Easter as Anne and I sit in the sunshine at the pub. It's unbelievable – we had seven months of rain and as soon as the pub has to close we have a heatwave! The last few weeks have been extremely challenging as the closure could not have come at a worse time, and Anne's training business has also taken a big hit. But we are counting our lucky stars we are well and are literally staying home to make sure we do not succumb to Covid-19. From what we hear you are all safe too; please keep well.

On the bright side we are working our way through 120 frozen Mother's Day roasts, and Anne says she never wants to see another carrot! Fingers crossed we can open soon, as otherwise it will be touch and go if we cannot get in the summer trade.

Take care everyone Eamonn

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Cryptic Delicacies



In looking for a theme for last month's crossword, I was thinking about Easter, and googling that led me to *Life of Brian* and though I thought that possibly it might unwise to reference that too much in a Parish Magazine, it seemed to me that in these dark times we could do with a reminder to 'ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE' – and with that long thread through the grid there was not much room for a theme, other than to also include SMILE and OPTIMISTIC. Of course I then went and ruined the ambience with ARID, GAROTTING, and SPLAT, but it is rare that you like everything in life's box of chocolates - and any optimism might have been hard to come by anyway when faced with some of the clues, not least with that long anagram for the final song from *Life of Brian* (which by one of those funny twists of life my sister had just watched with her teenaged son when I sent her this puzzle – and I had to keep my mouth shut so as not to give it away). Hopefully there were enough easier clues to give you a chance with that long anagram, but here are some of the harder ones, with the definitions underlined:

10 Nancy's article hidden in butts for performers of personal services (6)
VALETS
Nancy can be used to point to particular person (maybe Reagan, Sinatra or Spungen) but often it refers to the city

in France and so 'Nancy's article' in this case is saying how a definite article might be said in France, to give you LE, and that is then put into VATS = 'butts'.

14 Superior perhaps has Christian symbol for keen beginner in way of exercise (8)
LACROSSE

'Perhaps' points to 'Superior' being an example of something, in this case a LA[K]E (as in the Great Lakes), [K]een beginner = K which is replaced by 'Christian symbol' = CROSS.

6 Sounds like insect seen in France with what it uses to structure shelters (8)
BIVOUACS

Insect = bee, seen in France = vu (as in the past participle of 'voire'), and in order to make structure, a bee uses wax – and if you say bee-vu-wax, it sounds like BIVOUACS. I was really chuffed with this clue. You may not have been.

8 Rice is in sight, connected with value of 5/1/22/23 (10)
OPTIMISTIC

Rice = TIM (as in Sir Tim Rice, librettist of Jesus Christ Superstar, Evita, and many others) along with IS is put into OPTIC = 'sight related', and OPTIMISTIC is what Eric Idle is when he is singing his song on the cross (as in 5/1/22/23).

12 'Twist' is an example of wind up and then a drop-in (10)
RAGAMUFFIN

Wind up = RAG (as in 'tease'), a drop in cricket can be described as A MUFF, with IN gives you what *Oliver Twist* might be described as when he is running around with the Artful Dodger.

19 Arrange 'Grease is the Word' before getting original source of oomph for 'Greased Lightnin' (3,3)
OIL RIG

Arrange = RIG, Grease = OIL is the word before. The musical *Grease* includes both these songs and *Greased Lightnin'* was the name of the boys' car turned 'systematic, hydromatic, ultramatic' hot rod – and it's source of oomph was petrol, which would have originally come from an OIL RIG. No, really, you do not have to write and thank me for that one.

Always good to get ideas of things to discuss in my article, so any responses or queries will be happily received at andrewt@andrewtatham.co.uk

Andrew

Zoom to the rescue



On Palm Sunday morning there was the usual church choir practice, but this time via the computer app Zoom. Our organist, David Fishwick had organised it and sent us copies of the music beforehand, but the practice itself was a mixed success. As Zoom was designed for conferencing, not music-making, there was a time lag before we could hear David's organ music which led to a certain amount of chaos and hilarity.

We had a great time though and it was lovely to see everyone. We hope we will be able to sort things out during the ensuing Sunday morning practices and be pitch perfect when Sunday services in church begin again.

Sue Tatham

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Remote Learning

After the announcement from the Government stating that all schools would be closing, all of our boarders returned home safely to their families and our day pupils have stayed at home, all studying remotely. All have access to our remote learning system that has been put in place to support them to ensure the continuity of their education. Teachers and the IT department have been working tirelessly to ensure the students have access to a varied and stimulating suite of online learning resources. It is at a time like this that we see the real sense of community shine through in true Box Hill School spirit.



Blue skies over Box Hill School

Every one of us is learning how to adjust and to find coping mechanisms during this difficult time but this will not be forever and we will come out the other side stronger than before. It has been truly heart-warming to

see that students, families and staff are 'virtually' coming together and supporting one another. This is what we do best. There has been some excellent learning taking place and great work achieved. Lily McKeown



Mark Day sent this photo of the Dorking Halls in the 1950s. Obviously taken at this time of year, as the sign at the entrance is for the Leith Hill Musical Festival.



Just to confirm the obvious, sadly the Garden Shed has cancelled all its future events. It will resume as soon as possible. In the meantime, Susie and Pauline hope you are all keeping well and enjoying time in your garden.

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Tracey's NHS Scrubs Project



Mickleham's own Tracey O'Hanlon (of Tracey's Sewing Room) is leading a project to provide protective garments for NHS staff. Inspired by the Facebook page 'For the love of Scrubs,' Jane and Nina from Knights Haberdashery in Reigate, who were aware of Tracey's skills, suggested that she set up the project. A quick message to our local WhatsApp Group asking for help to sew scrubs for the NHS resulted in a flood of volunteers

offering to sew, collect, deliver, donate and lend machines. Within a week, she had turned our area into a mini industry making scrubs, with departments dealing with acquisition, collections, deliveries, training, funding, production and quality control. At the time of writing nearly one hundred people have volunteered and over two hundred scrubs have been made which will be going to the Royal Surrey and East Surrey hospitals. Kirsten Johnson

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How you can help

It is a confusing time for the children of our treasured St Michael's Community Nursery. At a time of the year when they would have been delighting in the warmer weather the natural world and cementing their friendships through shared experiences, they are suddenly part of a worldwide crisis that even we, as adults, do not really understand.

We wanted to keep you all updated on how we are trying to navigate this unprecedented crisis. The parents and nursery committee are so grateful to Hilary for her amazing leadership and the wonderful staff as the nursery continues to be open for our most vulnerable children, albeit through a

limited provision. There has also been some very happy nursery children who, during lockdown, have been able to watch Hilary and other teachers reading stories online and doing some carpet-time activities that they can join in with at home, and of course our parents are setting up many videocall play dates - so our nursery continues to be vibrant even though a lot of this is behind multiple closed doors.

As you know, the nursery relies on the fees paid by parents, because local authority funding per child per hour is much lower than the cost of provision, and of course we will not see that income this term. We believe we will be eligible for the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme so that we can access help with some of the pay of furloughed staff, although it remains to be seen how this plays out. In the meantime then we also wanted to let you know ways in which you could also be part of helping the nursery stay afloat during these stormy few months and be in the best shape to reopen its doors as soon as it is able.

- Do you have a skill set that will be helpful to us – can you help with jobs which may need to take place out of term time such as refurbishing the sand pit or sprucing up the chicken coop?
- Perhaps you or your children

attended the nursery and you would like the opportunity to buy a gingerbread man that will be displayed inside the gingerbread house for years to come?

- Maybe you have uncovered a treasure trove of art materials while clearing out the spare room and would like to donate them to the nursery?

The nursery is so grateful to be part of this wonderful community and an experience like the current situation is a great reminder of how lucky we are to be part of the community in Mickleham and Westhumble. Thank you for your incredible support over the years and planning ahead, we very much hope to welcome you all to our Christmas Fair for an extra-special celebration at the end of the year.

Stay well and keep safe. Debbie



Children from the Nursery enjoy playing in the playground. How long before they can do this again?



Just before the coronavirus lockdown the children from the Nursery decorated the church porch with the daffodils they had made. They included the following following notice:

We hope our spring creativities bring a smile of joy to parishioners and visitors. The Nursery is now closed until further notice, but we are still offering a service to key workers' and vulnerable children.

Stay Safe and keep well. The Staff and children of St Michael's Community Nursery





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**BRAIN TEASER answers: 1 Up to a point
2 Get up and go 3 Painless operation**

Solution to the April crossword

Across 5 Asbestos 9 Overview 10 Valets 11 Take your time 13 Mali 14 Lacrosse 17 Kangaroo 18 Arid 20 Pussyfooting 24 Turn tail 25 Unsettle 26 Ginger

Down 2 Rave 3 Garotting 4 Tricky 5/1/22/23 Always look on the bright side of life 6 Bivouacs 7 Splat 8 Optimistic 12 Ragamuffin 15 Orangutan 16 Gruffest 19 Oil rig 21 Smile

Letter to the teacher:

Elizabeth has been absent because her mother has had twins. I can assure you that this will not happen again.

Easter Pause Paused

All schools have values that define the attitudes and behaviour of the individuals within their walls. At St Michael's, our 6 chosen Christian Values (Friendship, Respect, Perseverance, Thankfulness, Forgiveness and Hope) are the golden threads that are woven through every aspect of learning and life at school. We focus on a different value each half term of the year through collective worship, but staff and children will often refer to the other values at relevant times throughout the school day.

During the last week of this spring term, we had hoped to have our usual Easter Pause Day. Plans had been put in place to make Easter biscuits, eat hot cross buns and decorate eggs with coloured sand as well as creating a huge cross covered in spring flowers that would sit inside a large-scale Easter garden, all to support the children's learning about the events of Easter. Unfortunately, none of this, along with many other Easter-themed activities, will take place this year. However, Easter will still happen, just in a different way.

The past few weeks have been unprecedented and surreal for us all. At St Michael's, the children have been busy: reading, writing, baking, making, running, jumping, dancing, building, designing, painting, singing, planting, growing and generally learning all about the world through hands-on practical activities at home, rather than in school. Many of them have sent us photos of their achievements – their happy, smiley faces probably mask a lot of feelings of uncertainty, anxiety, loneliness and sadness at not being able to get to school to be able to learn, play and have fun with their friends. Now, more than ever it is important for us to hold on to those important St Michael's values and be thankful and hopeful when we celebrate happy moments in each and every day. Every time we look out of our windows there is a chance to see some new signs of hope in spring - a different bird, a sunny blue sky, buzzing bees and even a butterfly on a warm day, if you are lucky!

The children at St Michael's display our Christian values on a daily basis



stmichaels275775692.wordpress.com

when they are at school and they are clearly showing these values at home as well. They are continuing to persevere, despite the unusual and difficult circumstances, and they give us all reasons to be thankful for what we have and be hopeful for the future. As always, we are very proud of them.

'Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing' 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

Mrs R. Dickinson



Charity Pub Quiz Postponed

It is with regret that the planned pub quiz in May, in aid of the Playground Association and St Michael's School, will be postponed until the Autumn. With current restrictions on social gatherings it seems a necessary course of action. We will keep you informed of a new date and hope to see you all at the King William for this event later in the year. Heather Bourne

Note to the milkman:

Please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops off the milk.



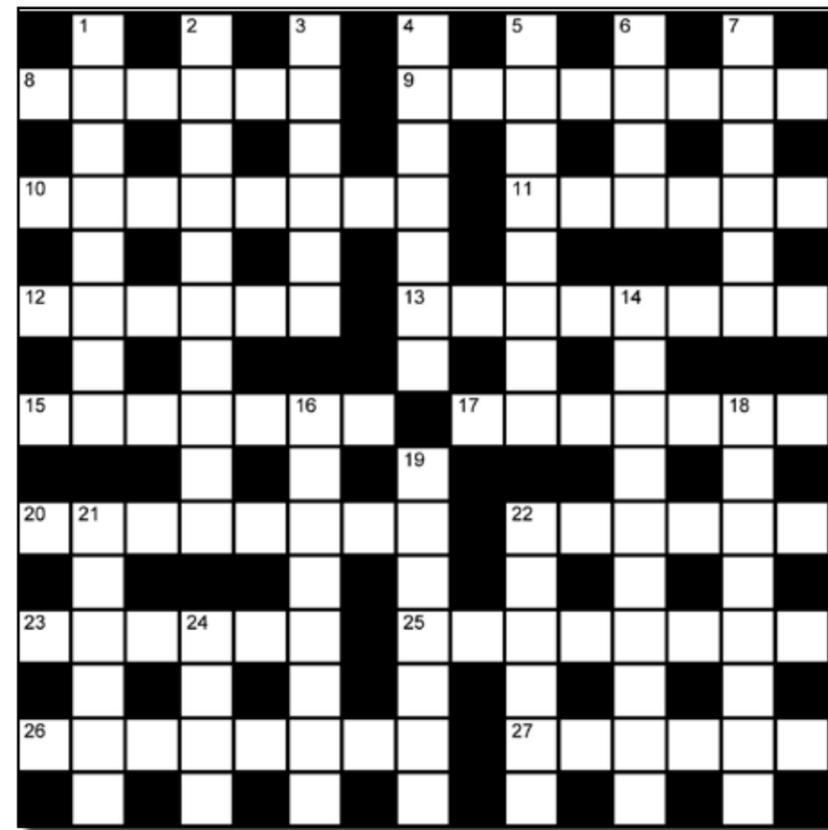
Cryptic Crossword



The top and bottom of the grid (3,4,7) has changed from the 22A to the 21 to recognize 15 in 11

Across

- 8 Rinse a chopped up piece of food (6)
- 9 In a way that is distinctively American, leap about with start of pretty constant sound (5,3)
- 10 Something used for setting some bulbs in vegetable matter (5,3)
- 11 Masseur opens for business insiders that are continent (6)
- 12 Throwing around bacon at the start rarely is a thing before dating (6)
- 13 Someone who tells story about king perhaps as a way to get cheaper travel (8)
- 15 Nelson's bearer is signalled with two fingers? (7)
- 17 Romeo boomed out where he'd like to take Juliet (7)
- 20 The state banker's a strange sort (8)
- 22 See instructions at beginning of puzzle (6)
- 23 Ancient lodge mysteriously follows aristocratic leader (3,3)
- 25 Messed about with Romeo and became stranded (8)



- 26 Firm sounds like a place for sales growth (8)
 - 27 I bleed after chewing food (6)
- Down**
- 1 Old dancing performer has rug with a hair out of place (4,4)
 - 2 Small child breaks rental bike (5-5)
 - 3 The old South Island source of agreement (3-3)
 - 4 Assault partner to be found in cell (7)
 - 5 A small change to slight craving for 27 (8)
 - 6 Once, pair even became close (4)
 - 7 Have a sleep before top grade snooker ends in a tie (6)

- 14 Frothily pour in cocoa, nothing less, to give the definition of richness (10)
- 16 Lurid case about missing 12 is all that is left (8)
- 18 Honestly, in a way, it's not really a way of doing things honestly (2,3,3)
- 19 Companion for an Indian batsman endlessly running around to third slip (7)
- 21 See instructions at beginning of puzzle (6)
- 22 Sounds like 4 killed Chuck Evil with prongs (6)
- 24 Capital is available in spite of go-slow (4)

Andrew Tatham

Answers to the APRIL crossword are on page 26



Birds embroidered by members of Dorking Embroiderers' Guild. They are part of a string of bunting made for a recent exhibition. Left by Pauline Sutton, right by Carol Easton.



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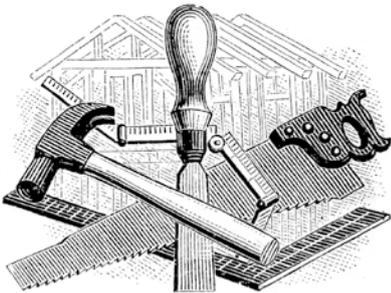
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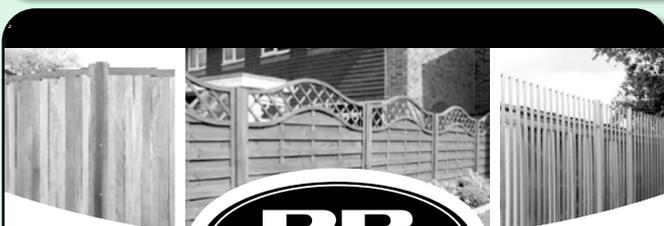


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